

State Rail Plan in Progress; Public Review Needed FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 17, 2012 PR# 12-008

Oklahoma's Freight and Passenger Rail Plan undergone last November is taking shape nicely and now needs public review.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has teamed with local communities to provide a copy of the draft plan for viewing at libraries in Lawton, Enid, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and McAlester.

Citizens are urged to review and provide comments while the plan is on display through March 17 at the following locations:

- Lawton Public Library 110 S.W. 4th St., Lawton
- Enid Public Library 120 W. Maine Ave, Enid
- Tulsa City-County Library 400 Civic Center, Tulsa
- OKC Downtown Library 300 Park Ave., Oklahoma City
- McAlester Public Library 401 North 2nd St., McAlester

Citizens can also access the document and provide comments through ODOT's website, www.odot.org/rail/rail-plan/index.php

The Plan combines the state's overall planning for freight and passenger rail into one single coordinated effort and shows the importance of a freight and passenger rail system to the economy, mobility, safety and environmental sustainability of Oklahoma. The Plan identifies the current and future needs of the state's rail system and will provide a basis for future state and federal funding of rail transportation improvement projects.

So far, approximately 200 citizens across the state have shared their thoughts and preferences about the Plan and another 100 stakeholders met with ODOT to do the same throughout 2011. Website information, public meetings and e-mail distribution were integral in developing this plan and the amount of outside input was considered successful. All of Oklahoma's railroads joined in the effort to assure the Plan fully captures future needs.

Following public input, ODOT will prepare a final plan for presentation to the Oklahoma Transportation Commission this spring.

For more information visit www.okladot.state.ok.us/rail/rail-plan/ or the public can send questions to railplan2012@odot.org.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

